



Satellite image with enhanced low cloud-top temperatures (degrees C) for 7:15 a.m. EDT (NOAA)

Agricultural Weather Highlights - Wednesday - August 14, 2002

- ***In the West***, hot, dry weather favors small grain harvesting, but continues to stress rangelands and strain drought-reduced irrigation reserves.
- ***On the Plains***, hot weather is returning to drought-stricken portions of the region, a broad area that extends from ***eastern Colorado and western Kansas northward into southern Montana and western South Dakota***. In the drought area, pastures and immature summer crops remain under severe stress, while concerns are mounting about a lack of soil moisture for the upcoming winter wheat planting season.
- ***In the Corn Belt***, scattered showers and thunderstorms are spreading into ***eastern portions of the region***, boosting topsoil moisture reserves and aiding drought-stressed summer crops during the grain-fill stage of development.
- ***In the South***, locally heavy showers are developing in areas from the ***Delta westward***, aiding pastures and immature summer crops, but increasing cotton quality concerns in areas where bolls are beginning to open. In contrast, heat and drought are further stressing pastures and rain-fed summer crops in the ***Atlantic Coast region*** as far south as ***Georgia***.

Outlook: For the remainder of the week, a Bermuda High will maintain hot, humid conditions across much of the ***eastern U.S.***, while a dissipating cold front will bring showers to the ***eastern Corn Belt, lower Mississippi Valley, Appalachians, and Atlantic Coast States***. Mostly dry, hot weather will prevail from the ***central and southern Plains*** westward to the ***Pacific Coast***. Farther north, a pair of cold fronts will provide below-normal temperatures and periods of rain to the ***upper Midwest and northern Plains***, while dry, cooler conditions will prevail in the ***Pacific Northwest***. The NWS 6-10 day outlook for August 19-23 calls for hotter-than-normal weather in the ***Northeast, Corn Belt, and southern Plains***, but below-normal temperatures in the ***northern Plains and West***. Wetter-than-normal conditions are expected in the ***northern Plains, upper Midwest***, and parts of the ***Southeast***, while drier-than-normal weather is forecast in the ***Southwest***.

Contact: Brad Rippey, Agricultural Meteorologist, USDA/OCE/WAOB, Washington, D.C. (202-720-2397)